

**ABSTRACT**

An image processing apparatus, such as a digital multiple function processing machine, capable of preventing degradation of security, while storing image data after an output process based on the image data so as to improve convenience. The image processing apparatus selects one of image data concealment methods stored in a first storage part (step S203); conceals image data by use of the selected concealment method (authentication information setting step S207 or encryption step S212); and nullifies unconcealed image data.